

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO TELONE APPLICATION**

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Proper application of soil fumigants is critical for optimum control of soil pests. Research has shown that shank in-bed applications of Telone C-35 plus a herbicide have provided pest control and yield protection equivalent to methyl bromide in Florida plastic culture vegetable production. However, PPE requirements for in-bed applications limit the practicality of this application method under the hot, humid conditions of the southeast. For this reason, research is being conducted to test alternative application methods.

Applications which use a coulter system to apply the fumigant deep in the soil either in broadcast applications or as a pre-bed application have shown several advantages which allow the fumigant to be more effective and overcome PPE requirements. They also reduce problems encountered by deep shank application methods such as cutting through old plastic, string, and drip tape.

Research on the coulter system is ongoing under commercial production conditions. Growers have used the system on their fields and initial research is encouraging. Trials to date have shown pest control and yields equivalent to methyl bromide in side by side, on farm testing. In addition to providing good agronomic results, the system also has provided additional benefits of greater flexibility for applications, reduced horsepower needs for their tractors and ability to make applications at a higher speed.

Trials are being conducted this fall of 2000. Our focus has been to make sure this system provides the disease control desired, providing good weed control, and giving growers experience with these methods of application